

OpenLine

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Mesa Customers

February 2003

Mayor
Keno Hawker

Vice Mayor
District 3
Dennis Kavanaugh

Councilmember
District 1
Claudia Walters

Councilmember
District 2
Mike Whalen

Councilmember
District 4
Kyle Jones

Councilmember
District 5
Rex Griswold

Councilmember
District 6
Janie Thom

City Manager
Mike Hutchinson



Open Line is published by:

City of Mesa
Marketing and
Communications
20 E. Main St., Suite 700
Mesa, AZ 85211-1466

ph: 480.644.3770
tdd: 480.644.2778
fx: 480.644.5582

web: www.cityofmesa.org
email: openline@cityofmesa.org



Printed on
recycled paper

Spring training baseball is back in town

For more than 50 years, springtime in Mesa has meant one thing: Major League Baseball spring training. And for most of those years, it's been the Chicago Cubs calling Mesa home.

The Cubs will return to town with new manager Dusty Baker to play 16 games at Hohokam Stadium, 1235 N. Center St., starting Feb. 28, and tickets are now on sale.

Together with the Cubs, the Mesa HoHoKams and the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Mesa works each year to get the award-winning stadium into top condition for Cubs home games. Grounds crew and

maintenance staff from Mesa Parks and Recreation spend countless hours preparing the facility for more than 150,000 fans who enjoy games in Mesa each spring.

The Cubs open their 2003 home schedule against the San Francisco Giants, and host the world-champion Anaheim Angels twice, on March 4 and 19. The Arizona Diamondbacks make their only visit to Hohokam Stadium on March 7.

The Cubs will host one night game this spring, on Monday, March 10, against the Oakland A's. A special "fan fair" event is tentatively planned for that afternoon, featuring Cubs

Baseball continued on page 3

2003 Chicago Cubs Hohokam Stadium Schedule

*All games begin at 1:05 p.m.
unless otherwise noted*

Fri., Feb. 28	San Francisco Giants
Sun., Mar. 2	Kansas City Royals
Mon., Mar. 3	Milwaukee Brewers
Tues., Mar. 4	Anaheim Angels
Wed., Mar. 5	Texas Rangers
Fri., Mar. 7	Arizona Diamondbacks
Sat., Mar. 8	Chicago White Sox
Mon., Mar. 10	Oakland A's (7:05 p.m.)
Tues., Mar. 11	Kansas City Royals
Wed., Mar. 12	San Diego Padres
Fri., Mar. 14	Oakland A's
Sun., Mar. 16	Colorado Rockies
Wed., Mar. 19	Anaheim Angels
Sat., Mar. 22	San Francisco Giants
Mon., Mar. 24	Milwaukee Brewers
Wed., Mar. 26	Anaheim Angels

CIS: Taking customer service to a new level

Residential and commercial utility customers in the City of Mesa will have access to some new and more convenient programs and services thanks to the implementation of a new Customer Information System (CIS).

For instance, in the future, customers will receive a new and improved utility bill, which has been redesigned to provide more information in an easy-to-read format. Spanish and large-print bills also will be available.

CIS is a state-of-the-art computer program that will allow customers to take advantage of programs such as "Budget Billing" and "Select-a-Due-Date." In addition, customers will be able to view their actual utility bill, billing history and usage on-line through the Internet feature of the CIS.

Watch upcoming issues of *Open Line* for more information about the future debut, benefits and features of CIS.

Emergency preparedness everyone's responsibility

The Mesa City Charter designates the Mayor with the responsibility of declaring an emergency. This tremendous responsibility includes the authority to request county, state and federal resources and assistance. It is the most important duty a Mayor could be called upon to perform.

If faced with an emergency, I am prepared to act swiftly and decisively to implement the action plans. These strategic plans are the result of pre-event planning with local experts, regional partners and national authorities.

The most recent of these planning sessions occurred when I had the privilege of hosting a regional Mayor's Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction in December. This informative session was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and focused on providing elected officials with key information related to responsibilities during a time of emergency.

I use the term "emergency" because an actual incident may or may not have anything to do with weapons. An emergency could be caused by Mother Nature or human influence. Whatever the cause, as individuals and families, we may need to be self-

sufficient for up to 72 hours.

Keeping this in mind, there are several steps that we all can take to be prepared. We should all maintain the following supplies:

- † A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day) and food that will not spoil. (*Please note: water should be stored in heavy-duty containers that will not disintegrate over time*).
- † One change of clothing and footwear per person, and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- † A first aid kit that includes your family's prescription medications.
- † Emergency tools including a battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- † Sanitation supplies.
- † An extra set of car keys and a credit card, cash or traveler's checks.
- † Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- † An extra pair of glasses.

These provisions will help ensure we are self-sufficient until local, state and federal resources arrive. Should an event occur, residents will be notified on radio and television by the Emergency Alert System. City of Mesa residents will be advised to turn to Channel 11 for additional emergency information that is specific to Mesa. In the event of a disaster, the City of Mesa Emergency Hotline, 644-3456, will offer 24-hour recorded emergency information and news.

The most important service a community leader can offer is a safe place for all residents to live. And, the emergency planning that has taken place to date underscores the commitment that East Valley leaders have to their residents and communities.

Message from the Mayor



Mayor Keno Hawker

Solid Waste provides more than just residential service

Mesa's Solid Waste Division offers full-service, cost-effective solid waste removal to Mesa businesses.

Our special features include:

Competitive pricing · Sunday and holiday service

Recycling programs · Bulk item disposal

Container maintenance · Customer-oriented service

In addition, we offer roll-off containers for construction, roofing and other large scale projects as well as service privately owned compactors. For rates and additional information, call 644-2744. Our friendly customer service representatives will put together a plan that best meets your trash and recycling needs.

Valley's 'tiniest' parade hits the streets March 1

One of the community's longest standing traditions, the Mesa Day Miniature Float Parade and Family Festival, takes place Saturday, March 1.

The miniature parade features floats no larger than 4' x 8' in size, crafted by school groups, scout troops, churches and other civic organizations. Marching bands, clowns and other performers also are featured in the parade. The theme of the 28th annual parade is "We Are Mesa."

The free festival takes place at Pioneer Park, 526 E. Main St.,

immediately following the parade, featuring free carnival games, community informational booths, face painting, children's crafts, interactive exhibits and family entertainment featured on several stages. There will be nominal fees charged for concessions and rides.

The parade travels east along Main Street from Robson to Pioneer Park. To enter a float in the parade, call Mesa Parks and Recreation at 644-2352. Additional information can be found on the City's Web site, www.cityofmesa.org, or by calling 644-EVENT.



Baseball *continued from page 1*

players and coaches. For more details on this special event, call the Hohokam Stadium information line at 644-4451.

Gates open 1½ hours before game time. No smoking is allowed in the stadium, and chairs, umbrellas, food, beverage, alcohol and large bags may not be brought into the stadium. Small bags may be checked prior to entry.

Both season tickets and individual game tickets are available. Ticket prices range from \$5 for seating on the grassy outfield berm to \$6, \$12, \$14 and \$15 for reserved seats. To order tickets, call 1-800-905-3315 or visit www.tickets.com. Tickets also are on sale at the stadium box office.

Neighborhood Notebook

LTD program hosts open house

The Mesa Leadership Training and Development Program will host an open house 5:30-8 p.m., Friday, March 14 for everyone who wants to learn about the LTD Program. The event will be held at the Mesa Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. Center St.

Consisting of nine one-day seminars held August through May, the LTD Program provides a unique opportunity to learn about Mesa's government, history, education, arts, business and economics, social issues, criminal justice and leadership. Mesa's Mayor, Councilmembers and LTD alumni will be available to answer questions.

For more information, e-mail lasomo@cox.net or call 969-1307. Completed applications must be received by Friday, April 4.

EITC, VITA could save you money

Do you work hard but not earn a high income? The Earned Income Tax Credit provides refunds of up to \$4,140 for working families. The average refund is \$1,400. There are lots of people who qualify, but they don't take advantage because they simply don't know about it. Even if you don't owe income tax, you can get the EITC. But, you must file a tax return.

Also, you can get free tax help with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Volunteers prepare basic tax returns and related documents for those with low and fixed incomes. Assistance is provided at several Mesa locations, most offering electronic filing. Call 644-2387 for EITC and VITA program details. For other tax-related questions, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Mesa Police launch bait car program

The Mesa Police Department is joining the Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe police departments to combat vehicle theft. A bait vehicle program was funded by a grant from the Arizona Auto Theft Authority.

Equipped with a tracking system, video and audio equipment, bait vehicles are left in auto-theft target areas. If stolen, police will make visual contact with the vehicle, remotely shut it off and arrest the suspects.

Arizona has one of the largest numbers of reported vehicle thefts in the U.S. The bait

car program has been successfully used in other states and auto thefts have dropped by as much as 40 percent.

There are many ways that residents can help prevent auto thefts:

- † Lock your doors, close your windows
- † Park in a well-lighted area; avoid unattended lots
- † Remove keys from the ignition
- † Never leave title paperwork in your vehicle
- † Keep valuables such as wallets, purses and credit cards out of your vehicle and other valuables hidden from view
- † Use anti-theft devices such as audible alarms, steering-wheel locks, theft-deterrent decals, ignition disablers and tracking devices
- † To report suspicious or criminal activity involving vehicles, call our 24-hour hotline, 644-2008.



A large portion of Mesa's funding comes from sales tax revenue. And because Mesa is one of the very few communities that doesn't have a city property tax, we are more reliant than most on local spending.

So, every time you purchase items for your home, enjoy a fine restaurant, stock up on office supplies, purchase a vehicle or catch a movie in Mesa, you are helping your hometown.

Thanks for doing your shopping in Mesa!

Events and Exhibits

All area codes 480 unless otherwise indicated.

Through March 8, 25th Annual Contemporary Crafts Exhibition; noon-8 p.m., Tues.-Fri.; noon-5 p.m., Sat.; Mesa Contemporary Arts, 155 N. Center St. National juried exhibition. Free. 644-2056.

Through March 31, Cocoa Quilters and Traditional Quilt Squares, Main Library, 64 E. 1st St. Exhibitions of African-American and classic quilt designs. Free. 644-2207.

March 1, Mesa Day Miniature Parade and Festival, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., downtown Mesa. 28th annual community miniature parade along Main Street, with floats no larger than 4' x 8'. Followed by family festival at Pioneer Park, 526 E. Main St. Free admission. 644-EVENT.

March 9, Valley of the Sun Marathon, 6:30 a.m., Utery Park, 3939 N. Utery Pass Road. Third annual East Valley marathon, which also features a half-marathon, relay and 5K. For details, call 657-5373 or logon to www.ValleyOfTheSunMarathon.com.

March 13, SBA at the Library, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Main Library, 64 E. 1st St. One-on-one business counseling with representatives from the Small Business Administration, Mesa/East Valley SCC and SELF Employment Loan Fund, an get info from the City of Mesa Office of Economic Development. Free. 644-2207.

March 18, Irrigation System Basics, 6:30-9 p.m., location TBA. You will le: how to maintain, troubleshoot and rep your drip system, sprinklers and bubble Free, but registration required. 644-33

